

MEMORANDUM

3612 21

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

June 16, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: LINCOLN P. BLOOMFIELD

SUBJECT: U.S.-Argentine Relations (U)

No action
close out

(u)

CHRON FILE

In response to the evening report of June 10 which Tom Thornton and I wrote on this subject (Tab B), you asked to see an appropriate guidance for State toward preparation of a public clarification of our revised policy. The purpose would be to deal with harmful exaggerations based on rumor, as well as to give appropriate advance reinforcement to Bill Bowdler's July trip to Argentina. (C)

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the tasking memorandum to State attached at Tab A. (U)

Tom Thornton concurs. *Past concurrence.*

DR
*I think
this will
create a lot
of trouble
25.*

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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Exemptions b () () EO 13526 25x () () ()

Declassify after _____

With concurrence of:

obtained _____ not obt.
IPS by *[Signature]* Date *12-15-86*

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Review on 6/16/86

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

21A

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: U.S.-Argentine Relations (U)

There has been increasing concern on the part of U.S. non-governmental organizations and the press, as well as the U.S. Representative to the UN Human Rights Commission, that U.S. policy toward Argentina has been altered in ways that are damaging to the President's human rights policy. Since the recent reexamination of the U.S. policy has not been publicly announced by the government, the basis for such concerns is obviously a combination of rumor and speculation. (C)

It would be useful if prior to Assistant Secretary Bowdler's planned visit to Argentina in July an authoritative statement were issued at the appropriate level of the U.S. government clarifying the main features of current U.S.-Argentine policy, both the positive elements, and the continued U.S. concern for violations of human rights which still occur, taking into account improvements noted in the Argentine country report on human rights issued by the Congress in January. Such a clarification, in addition to helping to scotch damaging rumors at home, could provide a helpful policy reinforcement in advance to the Bowdler trip. (C)

Could we please have your recommendations as to content and method of publication by the end of this month. (U)

Zbigniew Brzezinski

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ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI ONLY — (LPBloomfield and Tom Thornton) 21B

Human Rights (Argentina).

We were disappointed that the item we submitted on Argentinian Human Rights last Friday did not go forward for the President's reading. (U)

We are specifically concerned with two elements in implementation of revised U.S. policy toward Argentina:

- (1) The substantive danger that some of the guidance the President has given on speedily upgrading relations with Argentina could be overzealously interpreted in ways that could undermine his human rights policy. To put it bluntly, some who are unsympathetic to the latter might seize on the new directive to relegate it to a very low priority, which we doubt the President had in mind. It will be particularly important for Bill Bowdler's interlocutors in BA on his July trip to know he is asserting an important top-level policy when he reiterates our slightly modified concern for human rights violations in Argentina. (C)

- (2) We find increasing distress among American private groups about a changed policy they know only through rumors, leaks, and speculation. We are getting a good deal of pressure from people who think they know what the new policy is and are very concerned that we will simply lose interest in the noxious human rights violations practiced in the past by the Argentine government, some of which continue.

RECOMMENDATION: To remedy both problems, we recommend that State be instructed to develop a public clarification of the revised policy in proper perspective. The aim would be to scotch harmful rumors at home, and to give a helpful advance backdrop to Bill Bowdler's July trip to Argentina. If you approve, we will develop appropriate guidance for State. (S)

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

*Let me
see + think*

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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